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COMICS



SEPT
#426



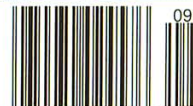
DeFALCO
SKROCE
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SPIDEY FACES HIS
DEADLIEST FOE,
WHO IS...

ARMED AND
DANGEROUS!

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS!

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



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HERE'S HOW TO BOOGIE LIKE A BRONTO!

WAVE YOUR ARMS AND RAISE YOUR RIGHT FOOT FRONTO...

POINT YOUR FINGERS TO THE GROUND, SHAKE YOUR OTHER FOOT AND TURN AROUND!

WIGGLE YOUR TAIL FOR FRUITY TASTE...

AND DO A FANCY WALK-IN-PLACE!

BEND OVER FAST AND TOUCH THE FLOOR--

ACK - MY BACK!

GRAB YOUR BEST FRIEND'S PEBBLES LIKE BEFORE!

BARNEY!!!

I THINK YOUR PEBBLES ARE BRIGHTER THAN YOU ARE, FRED! HEE HEE!

Post Fruity PEBBLES
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DR. OTTO OCTAVIUS

PARKER --?!

CAN YOU HEAR ME, PETER?

I'M COMING BACK!

BACK FROM THE DEAD!

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®: Vol. 1, No. 426, September, 1997. (ISSN #0274-5232) Published by MARVEL COMICS, David J. Schreft, President; Stan Lee, Publisher; Shirrel Rhoades, Executive VP; Publishing Office of Publication, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1997 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$1.99 per copy in the U.S. and \$2.80 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues U.S. \$23.88; foreign \$35.88; and Canadian subscribers must add \$10.00 for postage and GST #R127032652. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. SPIDER-MAN (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL CHARACTERS, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, c/o MARVEL DIRECT MARKETING CORP./SUBSCRIPTION DEPT., P.O. BOX 1978 DANBURY, CT. 06813-1978. TELEPHONE # (203) 743-5331. Printed in the U.S.A.

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HEY, IT'S
THE EVER-
AMAZING

SPIDER-MAN!

A true hero at heart, Spider-Man has dedicated his life to preventing injustices against the innocent.



Meet Peter Parker, once a brilliant, though meek, high school student, orphaned as a child and reared by his doting Uncle Ben and Aunt May. At a science fair, Peter was bitten by an irradiated spider and gained the proportionate strength, speed, agility and early warning "spider sense" of that arachnid. He used these powers for personal fame and fortune as a masked Spider-Man. But when Peter failed to stop a criminal who later killed his beloved Uncle Ben, the youth's costumed identity took on a far deeper significance. He realized that with great power there must also come great responsibility. So Peter Parker became the wall-crawling nemesis of the criminal element, a young man determined to atone for the tragic death of his uncle — The Amazing Spider-Man!

MARY JANE WATSON-PARKER

The wife of Peter Parker/Spider-Man, and his closest confidant. She has currently returned to Empire State University as a student majoring in psychology.



THE ROSE

A criminal mastermind whose face is hidden behind a mask, thus, his identity is a secret from all. The Rose's chief goal is the consolidation of New York's underworld behind him and the elimination of Spider-Man as a threat to his power.



DELILAH

The Rose's primary enforcer, she is a super-powered woman who has been set on the trail of Spider-Man several times, though she has failed to destroy him.



PAUL STACY

The brilliant, arrogant cousin of Peter Parker's late girlfriend, Gwen Stacy. He has recently moved to New York with his sister Jill and father Arthur, and attends E.S.U. as both a student and tutor.



ALISON MONGRAIN

A woman in the employ of Norman Osborn, the Green Goblin, who recently aided him in the death or abduction of the Parkers' infant.



THE HAND

A secretive cult of Asian assassins who worship a master called "The Beast." Due to arcane rituals they perform, the Hand has been able to revive the dead. Their most implacable in America has been the scarlet swash-buckler—Daredevil.



DOCTOR OCTOPUS

Otto Octavius was a researcher in atomic physics who had designed and built a chest harness with four artificial arms attached that allowed him to manipulate radioactive substances from a distance. A freak accident bonded the harness to his skin and affected his mind which then turned toward criminal enterprise. Doctor Octopus is one of the web-spinner's earliest enemies who has been thwarted time and again by Spider-Man.



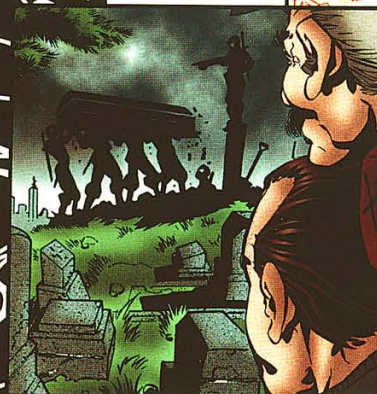
STUNNER

A virtual reality construct possessing super-human strength and endurance. She was the lover of Otto Octavius just before his death. Stunner has taken in the hatred of Spider-Man felt by Octavius.



PREVIOUSLY IN

Last time, Spider-Man battled Electro across New York until the electrical menace plunged into the East River and disappeared.



Elsewhere, a strange cult of assassins called the Hand had removed the body of another of Spider-Man's greatest enemies—Doctor Octopus—from its grave in a Brooklyn cemetery.

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



When this was reported on the news, Carolyn Trainer, who had taken the good doctor's place—Lady Octopus—vowed to go in search of the grave robbers and exact revenge.



KLTPZYXM



TOM DEPALCO
WRITER

STEVE SKROCK
PAUSLER

BUD LAROSA
INKER

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

ONLY THE FAM RETURN!

RICHARD STARRING
& CONCEPT/ID
LETTERS

RALPH MACCHIO
EDITOR

DOUGLAS COLORE
EDITOR

BOB HARRAS
CHIEF

S-SOME-
THING WRONG,
PETER?

J-JUST
A BAD DREAM,
MARY JANE.



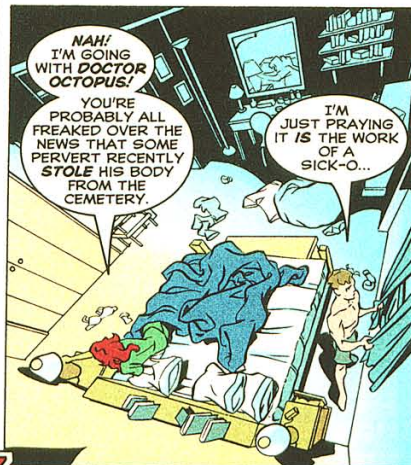
I... I'M REAL Y
SORRY I
DISTURBED
YOU.

GO
BACK TO
SLEEP!

LET ME GUESS WHO'S
BEEN BUGGING YOU
LATELY...

...YOU
FINALLY CAUGHT
UP WITH ELECTRO, SO
THAT LEAVES... THE
CHAMELEON?

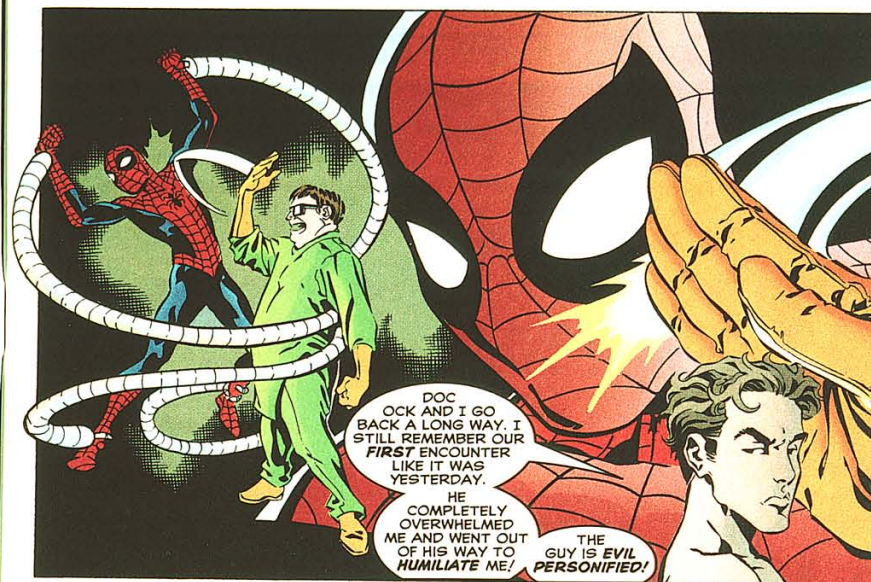
JACK
O'LANTERN?



NAH!
I'M GOING
WITH DOCTOR
OCTOPUS!

YOU'RE
PROBABLY ALL
FREAKED OVER THE
NEWS THAT SOME
PERVERT RECENTLY
STOLE HIS BODY
FROM THE CEMETERY.

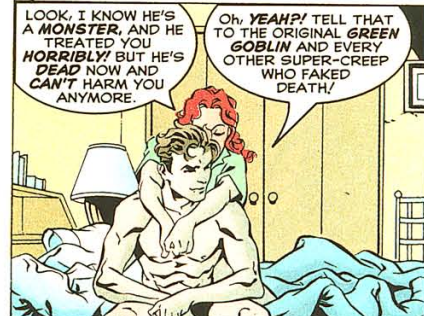
I'M
JUST PRAYING
IT IS THE WORK
OF A
SICK-O...



DOC
OCK AND I GO
BACK A LONG WAY. I
STILL REMEMBER OUR
FIRST ENCOUNTER
LIKE IT WAS
YESTERDAY.

HE
COMPLETELY
OVERWHELMED
ME AND WENT OUT
OF HIS WAY TO
HUMILIATE ME!

THE
GUY IS EVIL
PERSONIFIED!



LOOK, I KNOW HE'S
A MONSTER, AND HE
TREATED YOU
HORRIBLY! BUT HE'S
DEAD NOW AND
CAN'T HARM YOU
ANYMORE

Oh, YEAHP! TELL THAT
TO THE ORIGINAL GREEN
GOBLIN AND EVERY
OTHER SUPER-CREEP
WHO FAKED
DEATH!



OKAY! OKAY! YOU'RE
FREE TO WORRY ALL YOU
LIKE, HOWEVER, SINCE
YOU WOKE ME
UP --

-- THE
LEAST YOU
CAN DO IS SAHEM
MAKE IT WORTH
MY WHILE!



KWAM

THE
HOLE

I
KNOW
YOU HEARD
ME...



I ASKED A
VERY SIMPLE
QUESTION...

SPWAT

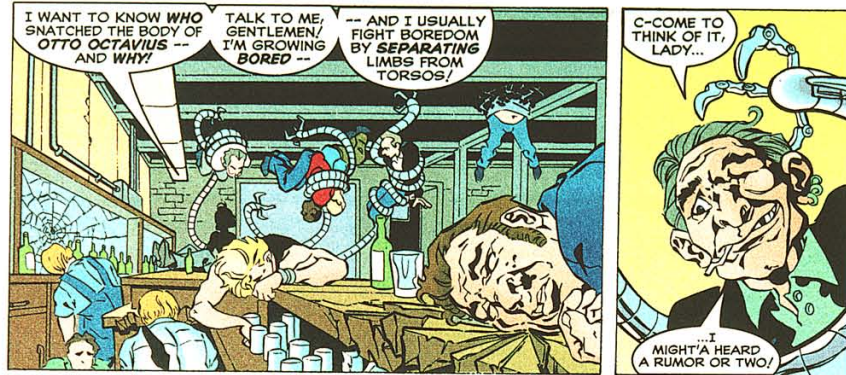


...AND I
EXPECT A CIVIL
ANSWER!

TWAK

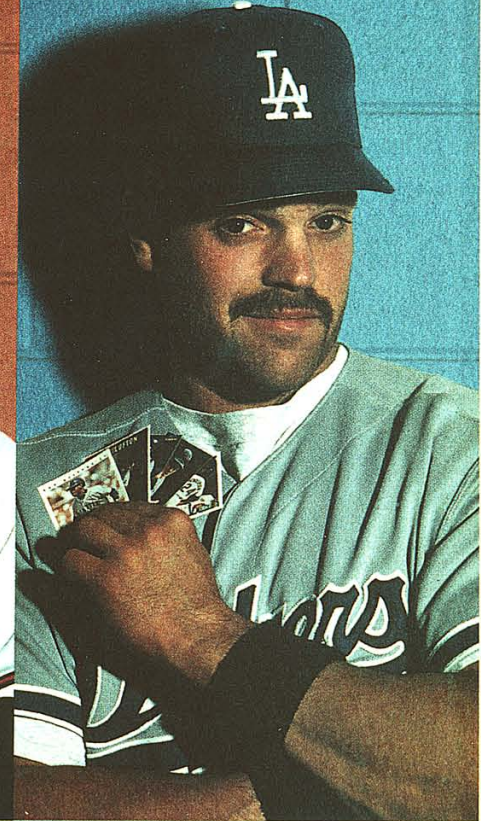
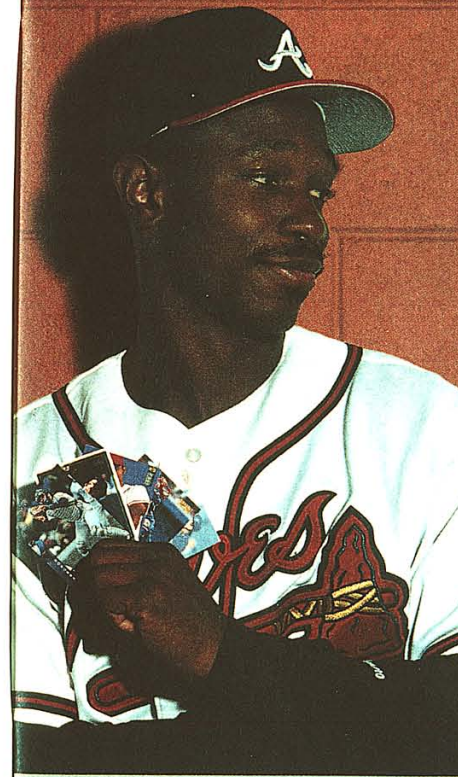


WHERE
IS HE?

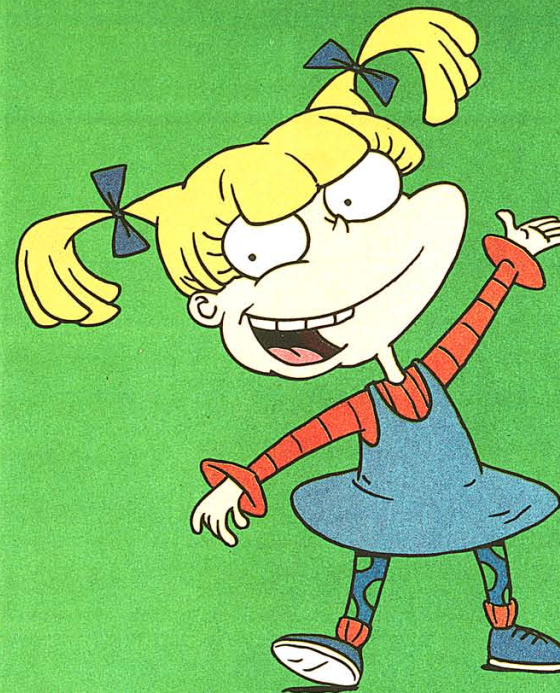
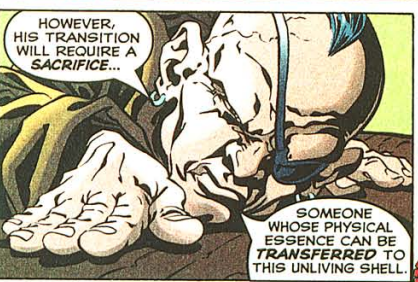
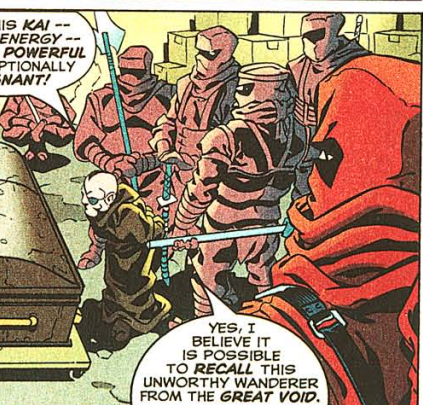
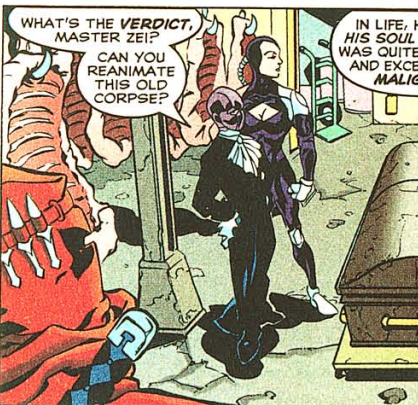
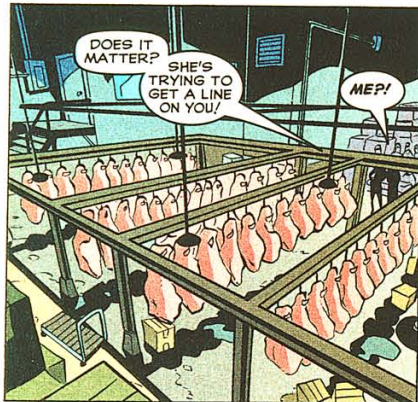
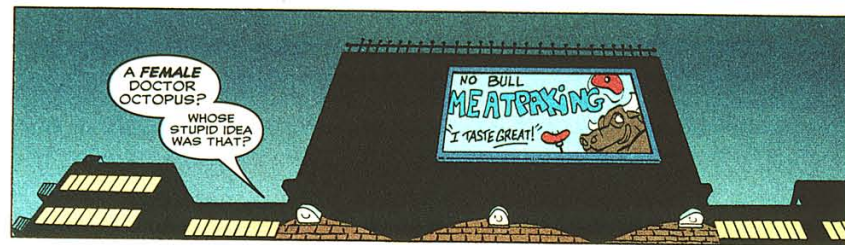


"I feel better knowing Mike has my stolen base stats-so he can see he's not the only catcher I've embarrassed."

"Keep reading, Kenny. It'll give you something to do in the dugout after I've gunned you down."



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ONCE UPON A TIME -- AS CORNY AS IT MAY SOUND -- SHE COULD LITERALLY BEND STEEL IN HER BARE HANDS.



SHE COULD BENCHPRESS A BUICK WITH EASE --



BUT NOW, SHE CAN BARELY FIND THE STRENGTH TO DRAG HERSELF OUT OF BED IN THE MORNING --

-- TO FACE THE DRUDGERY OF ANOTHER DAY --



-- AND TO TOIL AT A BORING JOB WHICH, IRONICALLY, CATERES TO THE FANTASIES OF OTHERS!

ALL IN ALL, LIFE HAS NOT SMILED AT ANGELINA BRANCALE...



BUT HER LUCK'S ABOUT TO CHANGE!

ANGELINA! I NEED YOU --!

D-DOCTOR TRAINER -- CAROLYN?!

W-WHY ARE YOU WEARING MY DARLING OTTO'S METAL LIMBS AGAIN?



I'M PREPARING FOR HIS RETURN, BUT I NEED YOUR HELP ...

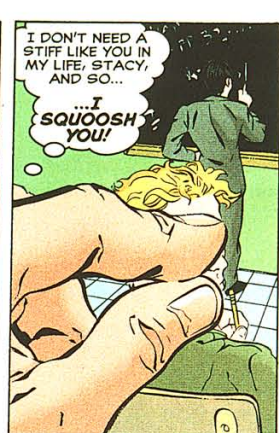
...THE TIME HAS COME FOR STUNNER TO LIVE AGAIN.



AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN A LECTURE HALL AT EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY...

I SEE YOU GIVING ME THE HAIRY EYEBALL, PAUL STACY.

BAD ENOUGH YOU'RE AN OBNOXIOUS WASTE, BUT I RECENTLY LEARNED YOU'RE ALSO A MUTANT-HATING MEMBER OF THE FRIENDS OF HUMANITY.

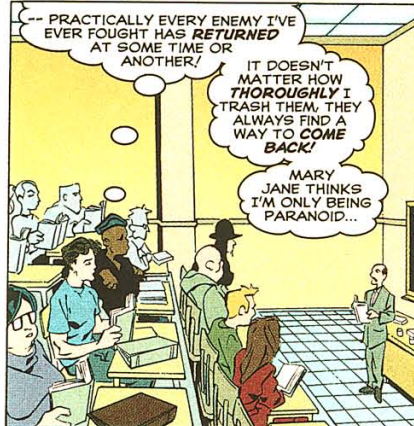


I DON'T NEED A STIFF LIKE YOU IN MY LIFE, STACY, AND SO...

...I SQUOOSH YOU!



TOO BAD IT'S ONLY A TEMPORARY SOLUTION! YOU'LL BE BACK --



--- PRACTICALLY EVERY ENEMY I'VE EVER FOUGHT HAS RETURNED AT SOME TIME OR ANOTHER!

IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW THOROUGHLY I TRASH THEM, THEY ALWAYS FIND A WAY TO COME BACK!

MARY JANE THINKS I'M ONLY BEING PARANOID...



...BUT IF A GUY LIKE NORMAN OSBORN, THE ORIGINAL GREEN GOBLIN, CAN FOOL EVERYONE INTO THINKING HE'S BEEN DEAD FOR YEARS --

--- WHY CAN'T A CRIMINAL GENIUS LIKE DOCTOR OCTOPUS?

THE GUY PLANNED FOR EVERYTHING!



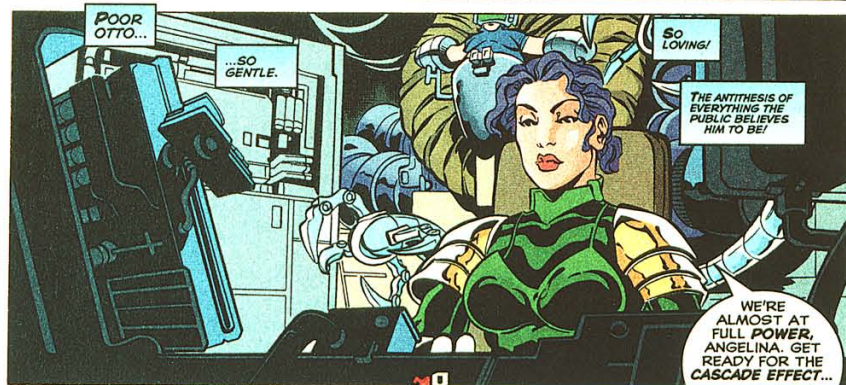
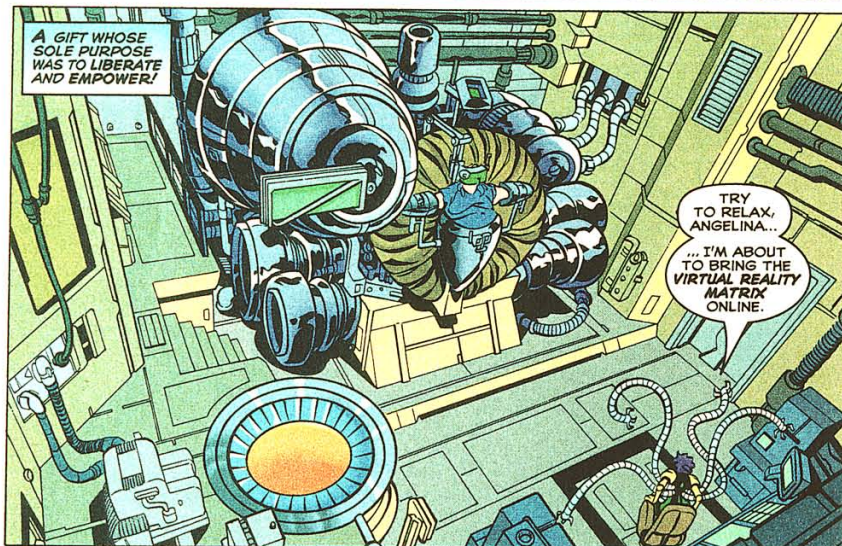
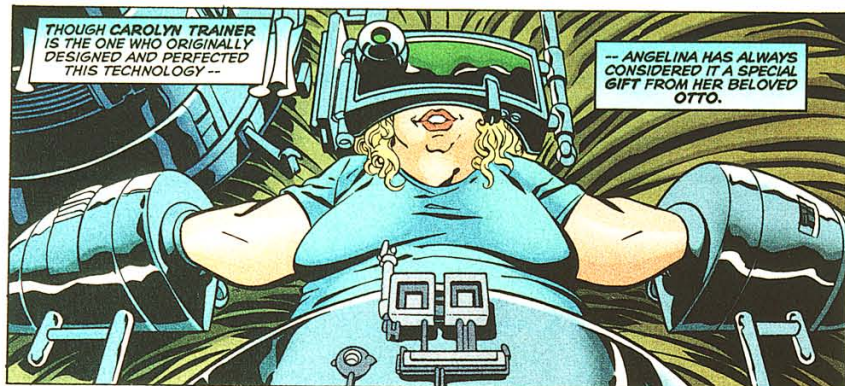
EVEN IF HE IS DEAD, I WOULDN'T BE ALL THAT SURPRISED IF HE SOMEHOW FOUND A WAY TO PULL A D. FRANKENSTEIN, AND --

WOW!



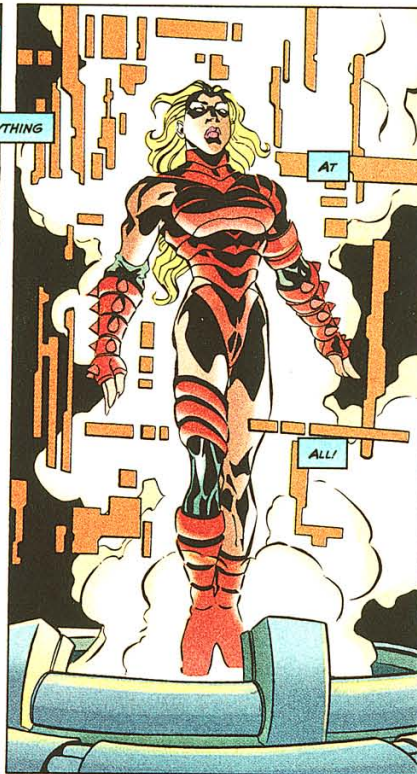
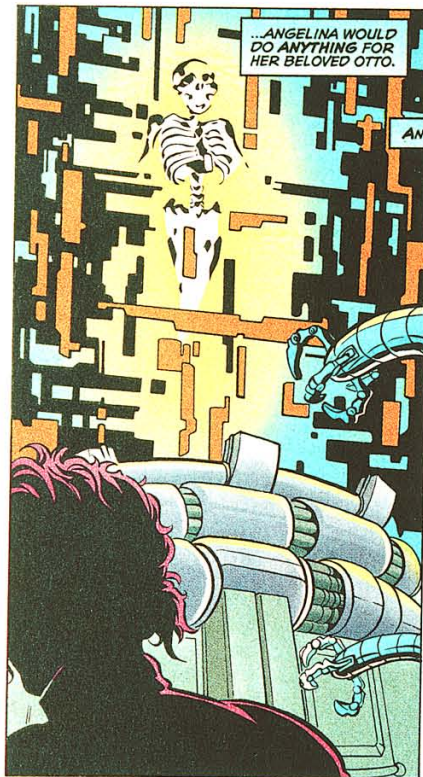
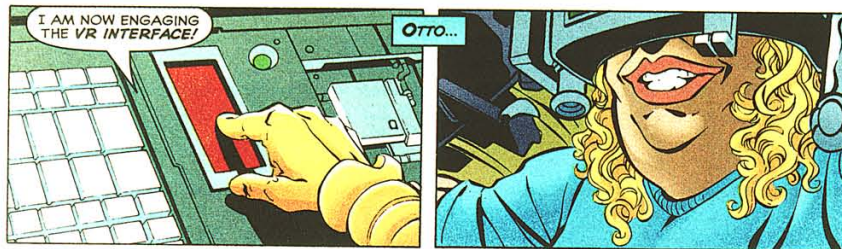
I KNOW IT'S CRAZY... AND YET... WHAT IF THIS PROCESS REALLY EXISTS?

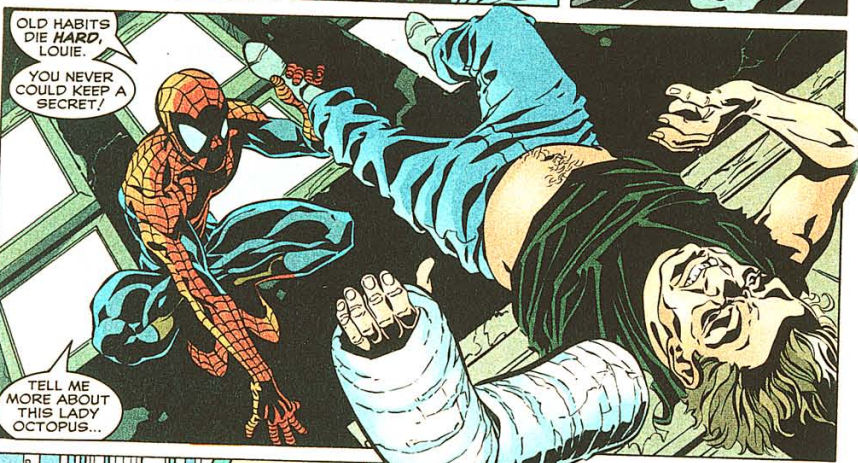
LOOKS LIKE I FINALLY REACHED PARKER! THIS MORNING'S LECTURE SEEMS TO HAVE ELECTRIFIED HIM!



WARNING:
CONSUMPTION OF
THIS TASTY BITE-
SIZED COMBINATION
SNACK MAY CAUSE
SUPER HULK STRENGTH,
ULTRA-HYPER SENSI-
TIZED HEARING AND
SPIDERLIKE
BEHAVIOR.







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PUT IT TOGETHER YOURSELF

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STEP 2

STEP 3

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Insert short A of Backside Polo into of Astrum short or Crimp short or your job.

Figure it out for yourself

CRIMP SHORT

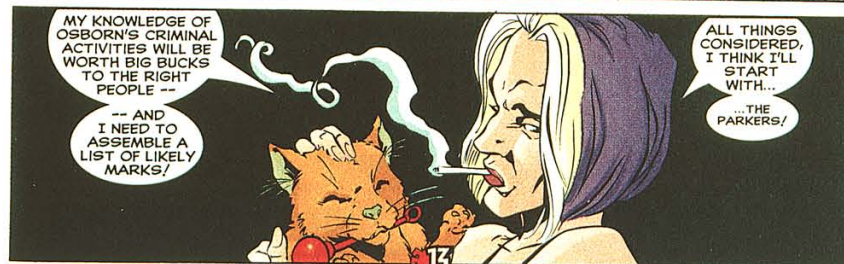
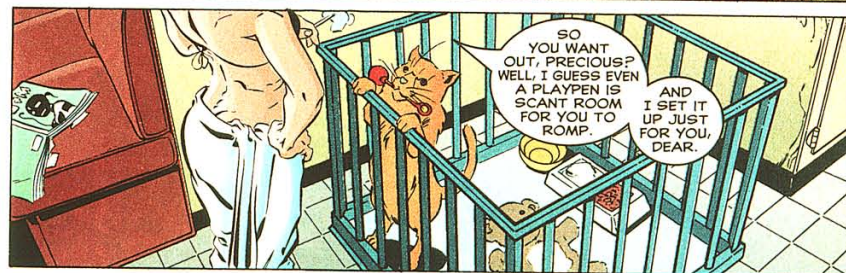
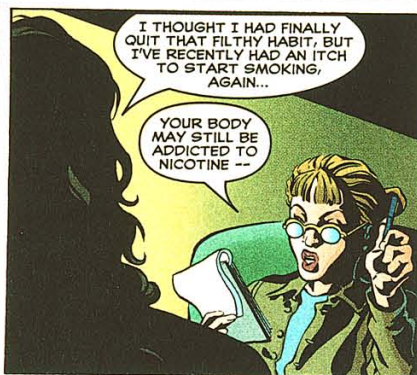
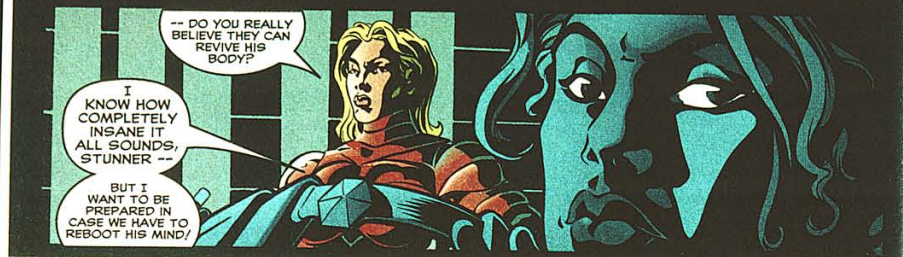
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YOU SURE THIS IS THE PLACE?

MY INFORMANT KNEW BETTER THAN TO LIE --

-- AND A MEAT PACKING COMPANY SEEMS AN APPROPRIATE PLACE TO STORE A BODY.

I GUESS...



Uh... CAROLYN?



I'M SORRY I EVER DOUBTED YOU.

APOLOGY ACCEPTED, STUNNER!



WELCOME TO OUR Funhouse, LADIES!

I'M THE DEADLY **Petilah**, AND I'LL BE YOUR HOSTESS THIS EVENING!



PLEASE EXCUSE THE **Haphazard** NATURE OF THIS ASSAULT, BLONDIE.

WE ONLY EXPECTED THE **Octopus** Lady...



YOUR PRESENCE -- THOUGH DELIGHTFUL -- REQUIRED US TO MAKE SOME HASTY READJUSTMENTS, AND

FORGIVE ME! I WOULDN'T HAVE COME IF I KNEW I'D BE A BOTHER!

ARGH!

TWAP



SKIP THE SNAPPY PATTERN, STUNNER --

-- AND CONCENTRATE ON FINDING **OCTAVIUS!**

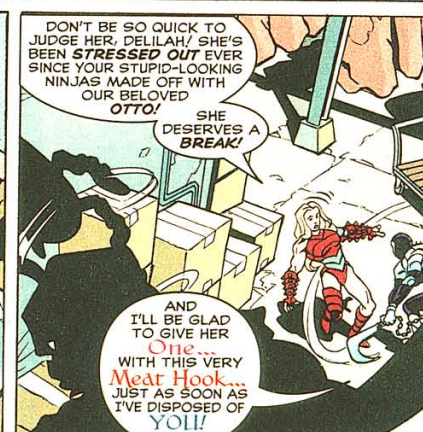


My! My! YOUR FRIEND IS RATHER PUSHY!

I SUPPOSE IT'S ONLY TO BE EXPECTED!

SPWAK

THE EXTRA LIMBS ARE A SURE SIGN OF A CLASSIC OVERACHIEVER!



DON'T BE SO QUICK TO JUDGE HER, DELILAH! SHE'S BEEN **STRESSED OUT** EVER SINCE YOUR STUPID-LOOKING NINJAS MADE OFF WITH OUR BELOVED **OTTO!**

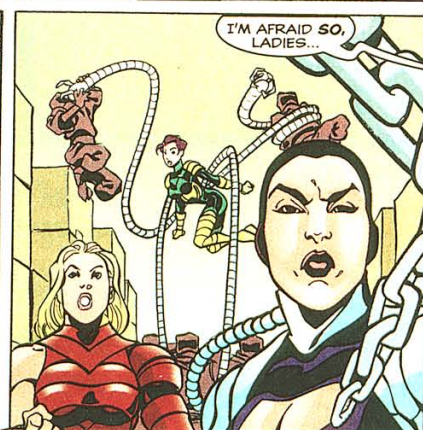
SHE DESERVES A **BREAK!**

AND I'LL BE GLAD TO GIVE HER **One...** WITH THIS VERY **Meat Hook...** JUST AS SOON AS I'VE DISPOSED OF YOU!!



THWIPP

THWIPP!! DID I REALLY HEAR A... THWIPP!!



I'M AFRAID SO, LADIES...

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- ☐ HPH Heroes For Hire NEW
- ☐ INC Incredible Hulk
- ☐ IRM Iron Man
- ☐ JIM Journey Into Mystery
- ☐ ZAR Ka-Zar
- ☐ SLK Silver Surfer
- ☐ BUT Thunderbolts
- ☐ WHI What If...

Spider-Man

- ☐ AMZ Amazing Spider-Man
- ☐ SPI Spider-Man
- ☐ VEN Venom
- ☐ (US orders only)
- ☐ SSM Sensational Spider-Man
- ☐ PPK Spectacular Spider-Man

The X-Men

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- ☐ DDP Deadpool
- ☐ EXC Excalibur
- ☐ GEN Generation X
- ☐ XME Uncanny X-Men
- ☐ WOL Wolverine
- ☐ FAC X-Factor
- ☐ XFO X-Force
- ☐ MAN X-Men
- ☐ MEN X-Men

Star Trek

- ☐ VOT Star Trek Voyager
- ☐ SFA Star Trek: Starline Academy
- ☐ EVS Star Trek: Early Voyages
- ☐ DS9 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine

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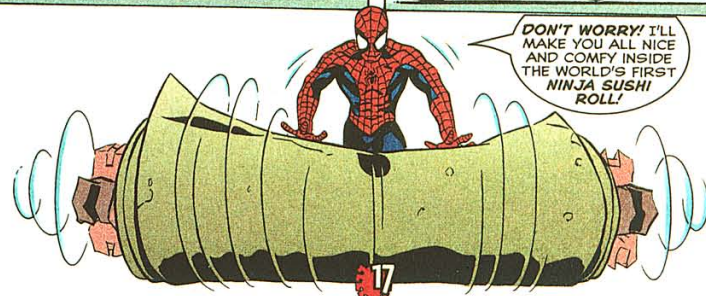
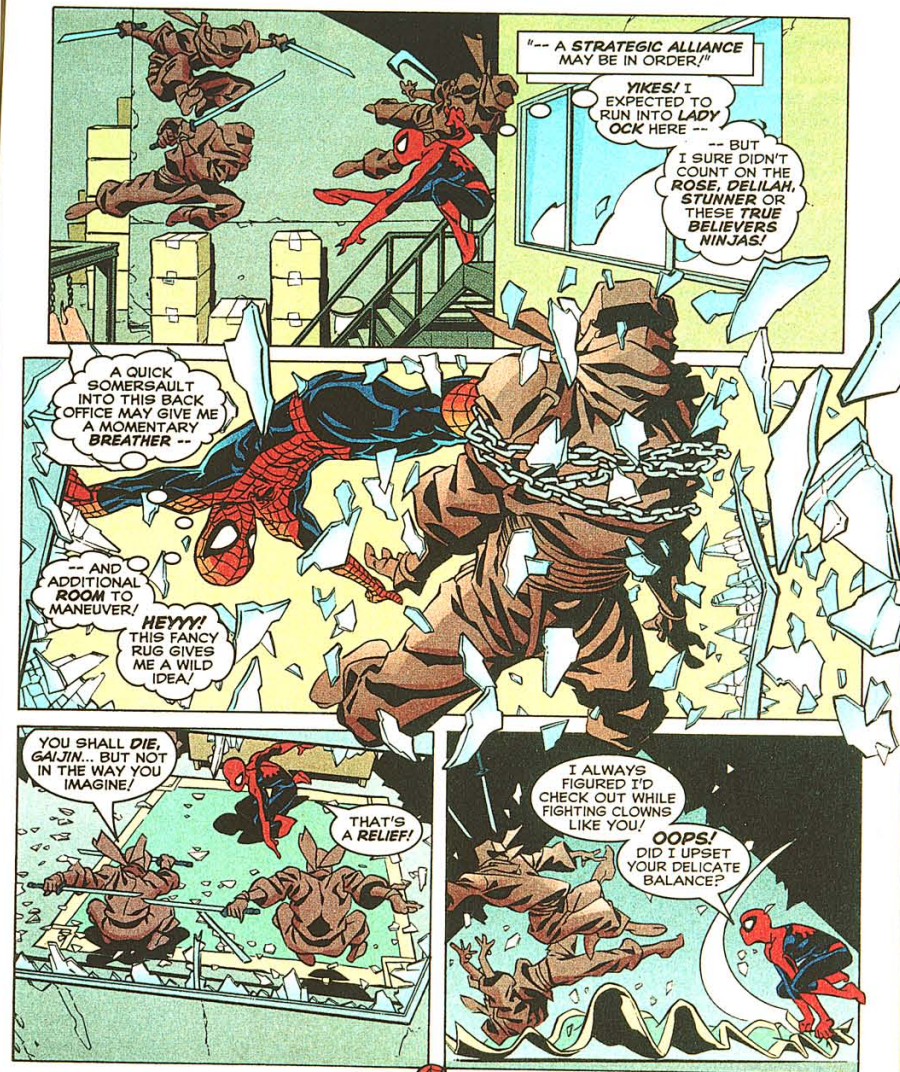
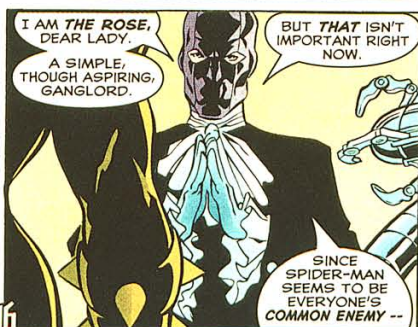
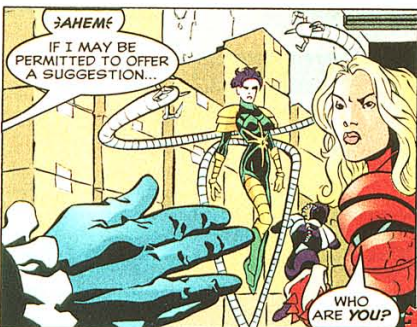
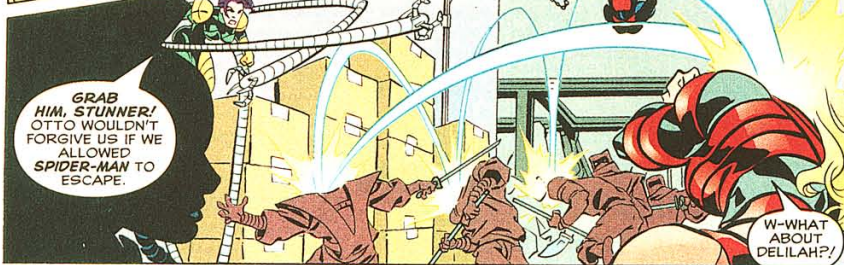
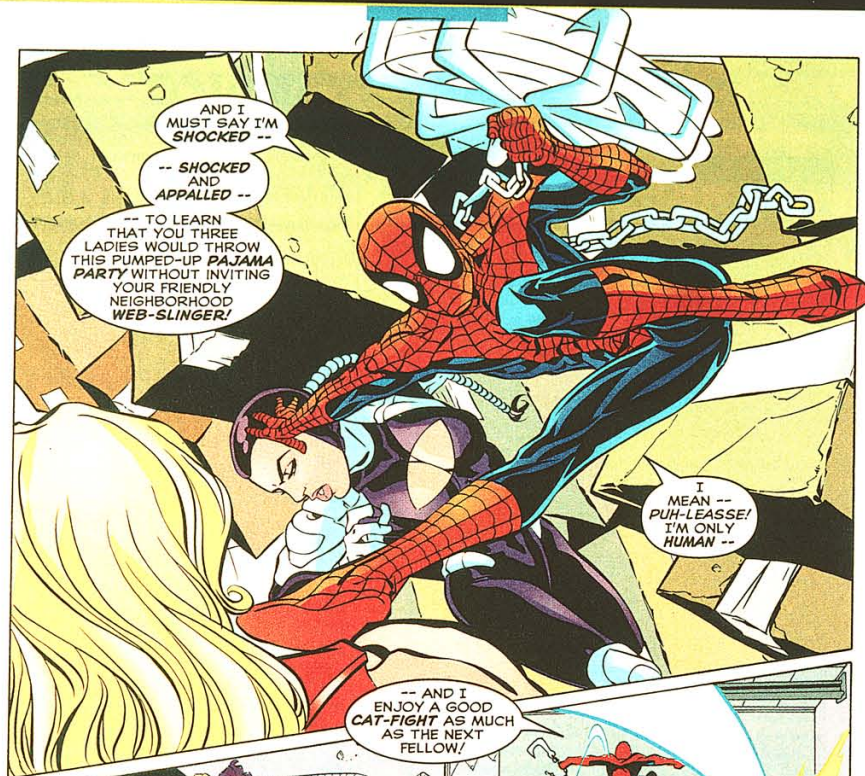
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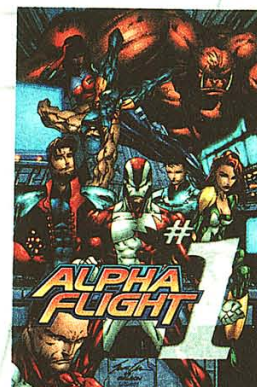
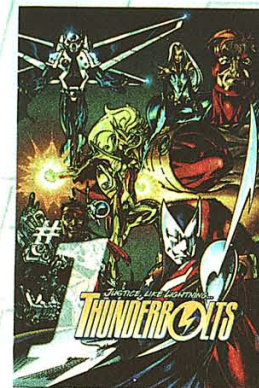
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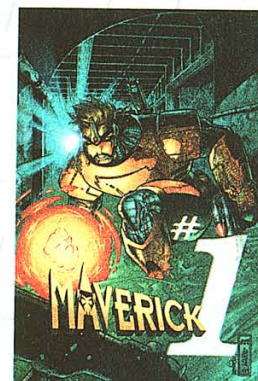
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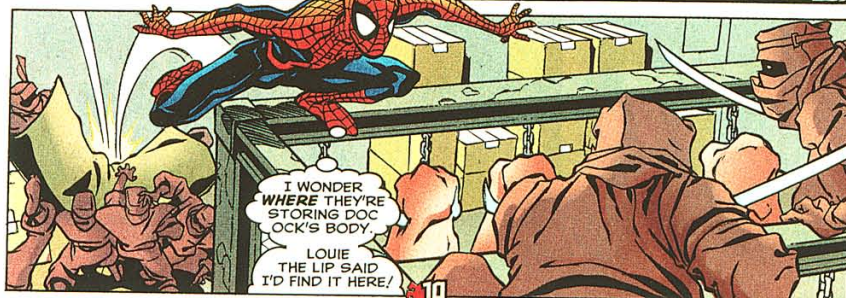
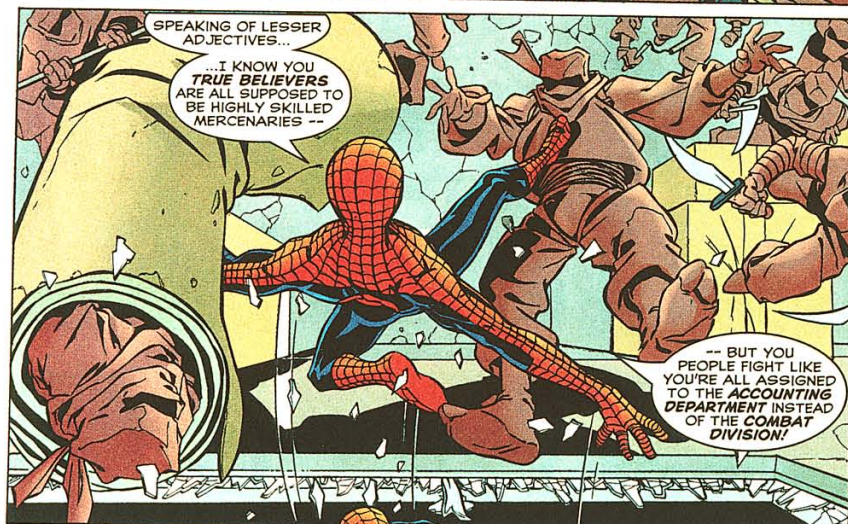
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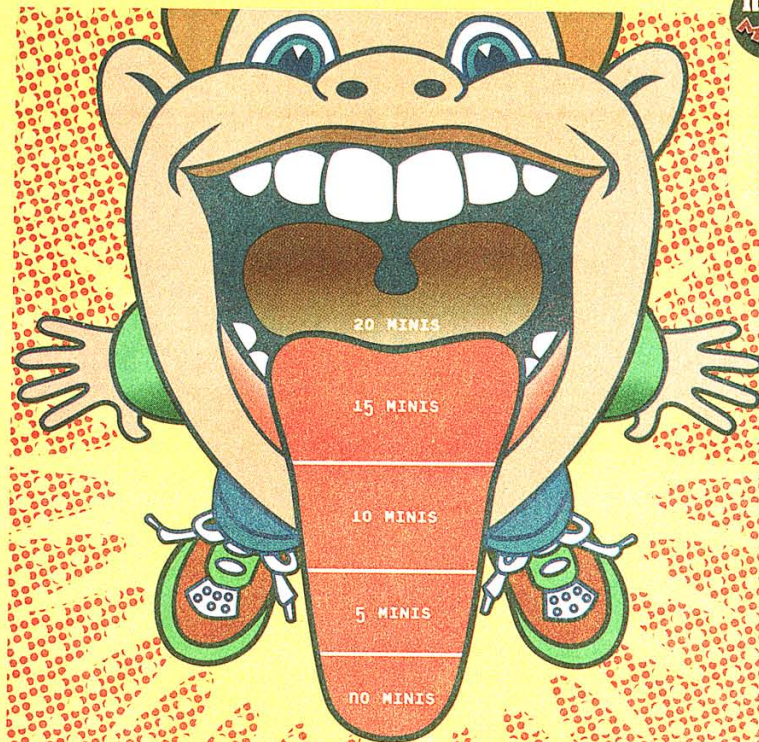
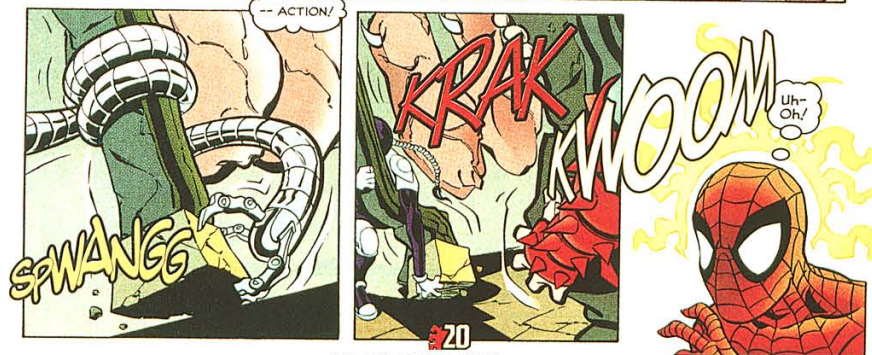
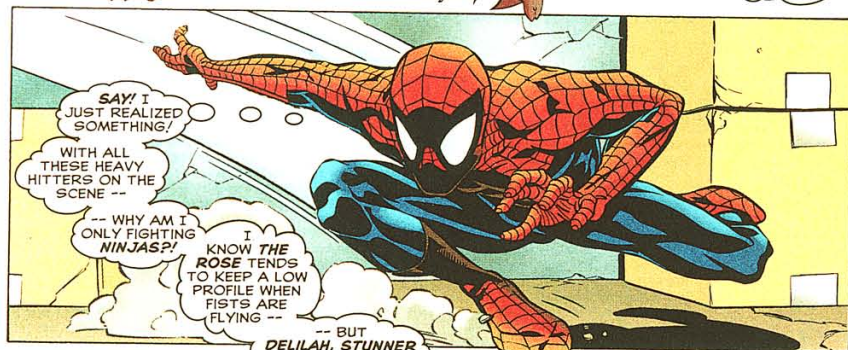
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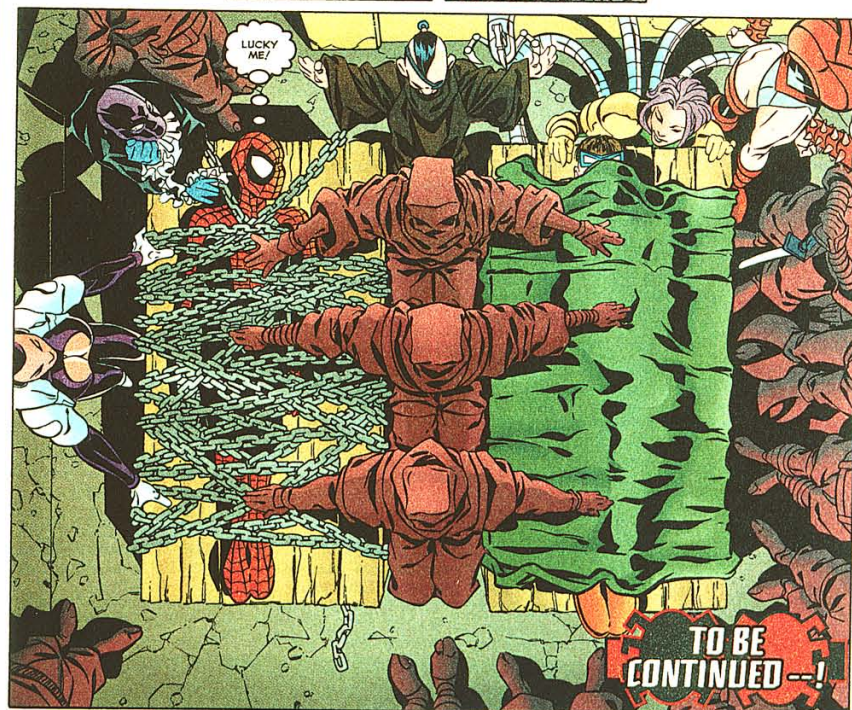
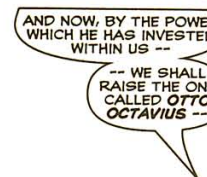
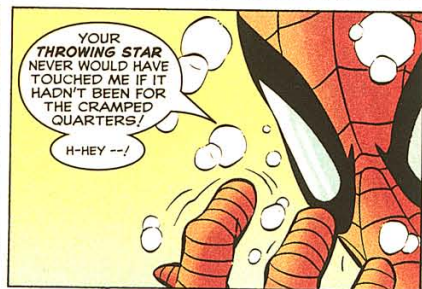
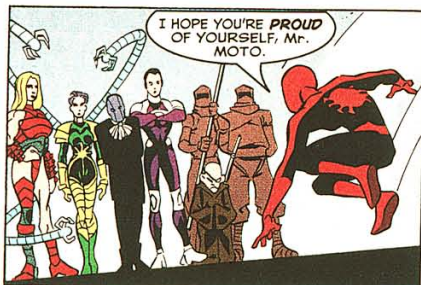
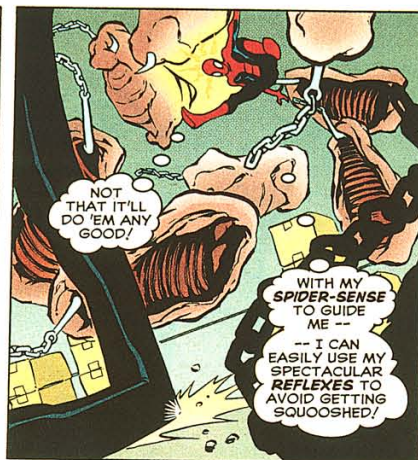
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THE SPIDER-VERSE

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Dear Arachknights,

This title is the best in the Spiderverse. And, as I consider Spidey's books the elite of Comicdom, that's high praise indeed! This Black Tarantula epic is shaping up nicely, but I hope all the plot strands and warring factions come together in a climax within the next few months. Don't drag it out too long.

I'm pleased to see some fresh foes appearing, like Delilah, Dragonfly, and Black Tarantula. But how about someone really colorful and original, to rank alongside the likes of Sandman, Electro, Doc Ock and the Goblin? I know, I know...easier said than done! But there hasn't been a truly major league menace introduced since Venom in issue #300.

In the tradition of saving the best for last, the back-up strip was the highlight of issue #421. If Geof Isherwood ever wants to unleash his easel on the lead-strip, be sure to show him to the nearest drawing board! This was excellent embellishment! And the story threw a few interesting hints our way. It seems former star pupil Peter Parker isn't gonna find academia the stroll it used to be. Could it be that MJ's gonna become the studious one, while Pete ventures out into the wide world? Sure, he's good with the ol' test tubes, but I've never really believed he's gonna become a full-time scientist! It just doesn't seem natural. He's more of an action person—be it web-slinging, snapping photos or, ah, bringing up babies. (Yes, that's a hint.)

It's good to see some humor and fun return to this series. Maybe Flash could use a booster dose of school life himself to boost his spirits? ESU has certainly brought back Mary Jane's long-lost sparkle. The last time she was this bubbly was before she got married! (Hmmm...)

And the Stacy's pop up yet again, eh? You've got something big planned for Jill and Paul, I know that. I also know I'm gonna enjoy sitting back to watch this little plotline unfold. Hey, with so much

college activity happening, this book could turn into Marvel's own version of "Saved by the Bell"! (Now, there's an idea...)

Kevin Barron
43 Mill Falls
Driffield, East Yorkshire
YO25 7AZ
ENGLAND

We may be getting a bit ahead of ourselves here, Kevin, but stick with the story a little longer, we believe that the Black Tarantula just may fulfill your desire for a "major league menace." We've barely even seen him as yet, and it certainly seems as if he's got his hands firmly in many a criminal pie.

As for Peter and his studies, let us not forget that Peter has always been of a studious nature. Before he got powers, in fact, he was anything but an "action person." He may be struggling a little bit at first, but we expect that Petey'll catch up before too long. (Although Paul Stacy sure wouldn't mind if that never happened. What's the deal with that guy, anyway?)

Dear Spider's Web,

I absolutely loved AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #414 and 415 because they were just so jam-packed with action. I loved it when Ben went into the sewer after Delilah and had to jump through the smoke screen, just barely saving Devine and his dad. I thought the artwork on the Sentinels was absolutely fabulous, and I loved it when the new Green Goblin was fighting off that humongous Sentinel. I only started collecting a year ago, and I'm already hooked on all the Spider-Man titles and the Uncanny X-Men. They should have some kind of comics Oscar awards for you guys (and gals) at Marvel.

Before I go, I have a few questions:

1. In issue #414, Jonah came up missing and his office was ransacked; then almost out of thin air, he pops up in issue #415 yet nobody even pays attention to the fact that he was gone in the first place. Where was Jonah during this period, and how

did he get back?

2. In #421, Were Meiko and Karsano both vying for the title of Dragonfly, or was Meiko already the Dragonfly and Karsano trying to be her successor?

3. The Green Goblin is supposed to have a sort of strength serum that brought him back to life after he was impaled by his Glider way back when. So why hasn't the Goblin come back after he was beaten by Spider-Man during "Revelations" and swore he'd be back?

Well, until Mary Jane becomes the Amazing Spider-Woman (you know she'd look better than Cindy Crawford in those tights), Make Mine absolutely, positively Marvel!!!

Justin Cole
1068 Manuivili Road
Kailua, HI 96734

Welcome to comics, Justin; we hope to see your face around here for some time to come. As for your questions:

1. This was dealt with between issues, Justin. Still, mention should have been made of that fact in issue #415, and editor Ralph has been duly chastized for the oversight.

2. Meiko did not earn the title of Dragonfly until after Karsano had been defeated, which is why she is not referred to by that title until her Madam Qwa addresses her as such after the battle.

3. He didn't say he'd be right back, did he, Justin? Sheesh, it's not like he was just going to the corner for a quart of milk or anything. You know that Norman—he likes to plot and scheme for a little while before making his appearance. But we can drop you a little hint as to his next appearance. Without giving too much away, Norman should be popping up in, oh, say, about two weeks in SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN. Ooops! We may have said too much!

Dear Spider's Web,
Re: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #421:

Wow! I'm impressed! Even though I'm still going through Mark Bagley withdrawal, Steve Skroce's art is so, well, amazing!

The Dragonfly story has really got me intrigued. First, this Meiko lady says that she's against this Madam Qwa, then she calls her sensei and asks for redemption. Sheesh!

It seems that Spidey's world is changing all around him. I'm still getting over "Revelations." Still, I knew you guys weren't gonna take away any suspense, even though the clone saga is over. Guess I shouldn't say over. The Stacy family is back. Don't forget, there is a clone on their side of the tracks, too...

We're seeing a lot of new villains coming out lately. Don't get me wrong, they're great, but there are still a lot of other villains I want to see around, too. Here's a few: The Shocker (him especially), Scorpion, the Vulture (the original, old, one), the Looter (I know, we saw him a few months ago in SENSATIONAL, but he's one of my favorites) and the Rhino.

I really miss Ben a lot, but I'm relieved that the question of who the real Spidey is is over. Ben meant a lot to Peter, and I'm going to miss him.

Well, before I start getting too depressed, I better go. So, until Eddie Brock and Cletus Kasady go out for coffee, Make Mine Marvel!

Marshall Drew
227 West Second Street
Clarksdale, MS 38614

As if that guy over in the SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN letters pages who keeps screaming for Stegiron appearances wasn't bad enough, in comes this character who thinks that one Looter appearance just isn't enough. Just how many Norton Foster fans do you think are out there, anyway?

As for some of your other favorites, we hope you've been on your toes, Marshall. Otherwise you might have missed the appearance of a decidedly aged Vulture in last month's SENSATIONAL issue. You also might have passed by the Rhino in KA-ZAR #5. Hurry up! You may still be able to find a copy! It just went on sale last week. On the other hand, what are the chances that there are any unsold copies of a book wherein the awesome Andy Kubert pencils everyone's top charging churl? Be prepared to pay top dollar! And

the shocker makes his shocking reappearance in an upcoming issue of PETER PARKER, SPIDER-MAN. Don't be late!

Entomologists,

Ish #421? Very...martially artistic! And a little different in having two separate stories tied so readily together. Meiko is a strong character...perhaps an overdue testament to the Korean female's persona. But characters like this have been appearing in Korean comics for years. Now...Angela's cousin just happens to pop into Spideyville.

We certainly got into the action right away. That and the great humorous verbal quips have always been Spidey's powerful denominator. Madam Qwa is a compelling twirl on the ol' baddie theme. The flashback segment involving her setting up our story very well...and all in the space of only six panels. Good job, Tom. And let's not neglect our shifty jiggle at the end of part one! Our star gal is in the service of the Madam. But Meiko seems way too bright and high-minded to be involving herself with Qwa. Methinks later she's going to turn into one of the good people.

The Skroce and LaRosa work was entertaining to the eye. On the cartoonish side. Unique. Certainly did the job. Whereas Isherwood's efforts were heavier, more serious, and likewise did the job. Tom certainly squeezed in what he could in our eight-page part two. The amazing costume change. The quick intro of Connover, a potential future anti-social type. The compelling Mary Jane, about whom Spidey had made us wonder all ish. The ol' need-to-sell-some-pics-to-pay-those-regular-guy-bills schtick. Quick touch on Jill's brother... Parker's present-day, blonde-headed adversary. We love it. I was waiting for a clone of Harry Osborn to appear from the woodwork of academia.

Qwa wasn't villain enough? You had to shove in the effervescently weird Rose and Delilah, and Tarantula? Man, I'm tired after reading this one...

Andy Herman
702 Wright Lp. #118
Aurora, CO 80045

Thanks for the kind words, Andy. So you believe that Meiko is headed for the side of the angels, eh? Maybe, maybe not. Suffice it to say that the

final chapter about this mysterious young lady has yet to be written.

Dear Marvel,

Re: SPIDER-MAN: HOBGBLIN LIVES!

I just wanted to let you know that HOBGBLIN LIVES! was the best Spider-Man story I've read in several years. My only problem with it (and this is probably writer Roger Stern's concern) was the battle at the end in which Kingsley was unmasked. It seemed too easy. I mean, they fought each other to a standstill in their other encounters. The battle should have been more drawn out. Regardless, it was still a great read. Why isn't Stern on a regular SPIDER-book? I know he wrote SPIDER-MAN: DEAD MAN'S HAND, but why not a monthly? I only read AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, but if Stern were to write, say, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, I'd definitely pick it up. And so would about 10 other people I know.

Francis Lord
3037 Eastview
Saskatoon, Sask.
S7J 3J1
CANADA

Ten more copies? Quick, someone get Stern on the phone!

But seriously, Francis, we are equally big fans of the esteemed Mr. Stern. Unfortunately, so is everyone else in the comic book field! His plate is so full right now that he had to reluctantly beg off the new hit title HEROES FOR HIRE after plotting just the first issue! But rest assured, Roger can write for us whenever he wants to.

NEXT ISSUE:

O KAY, YOU'VE HEARD THE RUMORS, READ THE GOSSIP, NOW IT'S PUTTING UP OR SHUTTING UP TIME! THE RETURN OF DOCTOR OCTOPUS! NO, NOT THE LATTER-DAY FEMALE VERSION, ALTHOUGH SHE'LL BE PRESENT, ALONG WITH DELILAH AND THE ROSE! THIS MOMENTOUS EVENT WILL BE CELEBRATED WITH A NIFTY DOUBLE-GATEFOLD COVER, FEATURING THE INDISPENSIBLE PENCILS OF BOTH JOHN ROMITA JUNIOR AND SENIOR! SO WHAT ARE YOU STILL DOING HERE? READING THIS PART GO PITCH YOUR OUTSIDE OF BOB'S HOBBIES AND COLLECTIBLES NOW, FOR YOU DARE NOT MISS THIS EPIC OFFERING BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE COLLECTED TALENTS OF TWO-FISTED TOM DEFALCO, SIX-ARMED STEVE SKROCE, UMM... TWO-LEGGED BUD LAROSA, AND ABLY ASSISTED BY RALPH THE MAN WITH TWO BRAINS (AND NOT A WHIT OF SENSE BETWEEN THEM)!

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ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



**SPIDER-MAN'S
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GREEN GOBLIN.**

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NORMAN
OSBORN.**

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Dan Green**

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BULLPEN BULLETINS

AVAILABLE JULY 16

HEROES FOR HIRE

The Dow Jones Industrial Average isn't the only thing being shattered as the HEROES converge on Wall Street to wage their final battle against the nefarious NITRO! Plus, a member takes his leave of the group! Who could possibly replace him? By JOHN OSTRANDER and PASCUAL FERRY!

3

INCREDIBLE HULK

Deal of the century? APOCALYPSE offers to help the ailing HULK regain the BRUCE BANNER portion of his personality! In exchange, the Hulk must become the fourth horseman of Apocalypse — WAR! By PETER DAVID and ADAM KUBERT!

456

IRON MAN

The true identity of HYDRA is revealed, and it's a shocker to all — even MADAME HYDRA is stunned! Meanwhile, TONY STARK reluctantly faces off against his one-time ally, DOCTOR DOOM! By JEPH LOEB and RYAN BENJAMIN!

111

THUNDERBOLTS

Terror grips the Big Apple as more than a hundred ELEMENTS OF DOOM swarm over the Empire State Building! The THUNDERBOLTS must bring down this seething mass — without bringing down the house! By KURT BUSIEK and MARK BAGLEY!

6

PETER PARKER, SPIDER-MAN

Bitten by MORBIUS, SPIEY finds himself battling a wall-crawler's worst enemy: vertigo! Will SHOC and the FRIENDS OF HUMANITY take advantage of his misfortune? By HOWARD MACKIE and JOHN ROMITA, JR.!

83

EXCALIBUR

PETE WISDOM and NIGHTCRAWLER visit the latter's native land, Germany, in search of the elusive AMANDA SEFTON! Meanwhile, COLOSSUS and MEGGAN know the anguish of being trapped in No Man's Land! By BEN RAAB and PETE WOODS!

112

PSYLOCKE & ARCHANGEL: CRIMSON DAWN

Those ill-fated lovebirds PSYLOCKE and ARCHANGEL reach the make-or-break point in their relationship — and wouldn't ya know it, that's the moment KURAGARI chooses to attack! By BEN RAAB and SALVADOR LARROCA!

2 of 4

STRONG GUY REBORN

STRONG GUY leaps out of the pages of X-FACTOR — and out of his coma — to stir up trouble and save the universe with his bachelorette friend, LILA CHENEY! Action-packed fun, with puzzles and games to boot! By TODD DEZAGO and ANDY SMITH!

1 of 1

WHAT IF?!

GAMBIT discovers the deepest, darkest secret in the Marvel Universe — and decides to share it with the deadly MR. SINISTER! Can ROGUE stop the ragin' Cajun from spilling the beans? Plus, a fun back-up story featuring the FANTASTIC FOUR in the Land of OZ! By IVAN VELEZ, JR., ROB PIOTROWSKI, KLAUS JANSON, and RURIK TYLER!

100

X-MAN

Traumatized by his recent poisoning, NATE GREY passes out in the park and is discovered by three sexy babes! Some guys have all the luck... or do they? There may be more to these girls than meets the eye — and that's saying a lot! By TERRY KAVANAGH and ROGER CRUIZ!

30

X-MEN

The PRIME SENTINELS, wielding their latest deadly technology, continue their relentless hunt for ICEMAN and mutant doctor CECILIA REYES! Help may be on the way — an Israeli Mossad agent has fled her homeland to deliver information that could mean the end of BASTION and the hateful OPERATION: ZERO TOLERANCE! By SCOTT LOBDELL and CARLOS PACHECO!

67

STAR TREK: STARFLEET ACADEMY

On the forbidden world of TALOS IV, OMEGA SQUAD battles rampaging hordes of JEM'HADAR! The only way to stop the primitive warriors is to blow up their stash of energy-supplying drugs! Can PAVA do it alone? By CHRIS COOPER and CHRIS RENAULT!

10

MARVEL ONLINE (available JULY 16)

SPIDER-MAN CYBERCOMIC

A startling new saga begins! Someone is targeting Osborn Industries for destruction — and SPIDER-MAN thinks that someone may be his greatest enemy, back from the dead! By GLENN GREENBERG, PAT CHAU and MARK BADGER!

49

ITEM! Marvel interns make good! JASON DURNIN, a junior at New York's Baruch College, and SCOTT KELSON, a SUNY at Albany Junior, recently spoke about the glory of comics and the job opportunities therein to a group of third and fourth-graders at P.S. 88 in Queens! And their good deed made the news! The *Daily News*, to be precise! Jason and Scott's appearance was part of the paper's "New York Knicks Present Master Math" program. The guys talked about their internships, how comics are put together, and how they use math on a daily basis. (Don't we all?) The article ran in 800,000 copies of the May 14 issue of the *News*! Good work, guys! Thanks for helping to spread the good name of Marvel to the uneducated masses! We're proud of you! Now GET BACK TO WORK!

ITEM! WHAT IF? turns 100 next week! And to celebrate this fabulous event, we're giving you a double-sized issue that packs a king-sized wallop! The main story is plotted and drawn by KLAUS JANSON, with scripting by IVAN (GHOST RIDER) VELEZ, JR., and features that star-crossed couple, GAMBIT and ROGUE! It seems that the Louisiana bad boy has stumbled upon the biggest secret in the Marvel Universe — one that could lead to its ultimate destruction! But when it comes to love, the ace-flipping X-Man isn't playing with a full deck! When MR. SINISTER offers a serum that will finally allow Rogue to touch Gambit, as well as a possible cure for the Legacy Virus in exchange for the deadly secret, the ragin' Cajun can't say no! Now, Rogue must reach SINISTER before it's too late — but how can she get Gambit out of the way? We'll give you a hint: it's in her kiss!



Speaking of "out of the way," WHAT IF #100 also features a back-up story by ROB PIOTROWSKI that's pretty much out of this world — what if the FANTASTIC FOUR crash-landed in the LAND OF OZ? We all know the INVISIBLE WOMAN will be Dorothy — but does anyone care to lay bets as to who will take the part of the cowardly lion? This tall tale features art by RURIK TYLER! Don't miss this spectacular issue! It's the coolest WHAT IF? ever — no question about it!

To check out our ever-awesome official Marvel website, for up-to-the-minute news and information on current and upcoming projects, go to the World Wide Web and type in: www.marvel.com!

And if you're a subscriber to America Online and you want to check out Marvel Online for trivia, creator/artist chats, the Spider-Man CyberComic and lots more, just click on to "Keyword" and type in "Marvel"! If you're not a subscriber to America Online and would like to be, just call 1-800-338-6100!

EDITORIAL PROFILE: GLENN GREENBERG

ABLE ASSISTANT EDITOR AND TV SHOW KILLER

HE'S WRITTEN: The SPIDER-MAN CYBERCOMIC for Marvel Online, the SPIDER-MAN: THE OSBORN JOURNAL one-shot, SPIDER-MAN UNLIMITED #17, THE ADVENTURES OF SPIDER-MAN, and issues of THE SILVER SURFER!

HE ASSISTANTS: THUNDERBOLTS, UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN, HERCULES AND THE HEART OF CHAOS, VENOM, GHOST RIDER, MARVEL TEAM-UP, and various one-shots and limited series!

WHAT DOES AN ASSISTANT EDITOR DO? All the work!

WHAT DOES AN ASSISTANT EDITOR GET FOR IT? None of the credit!

HOW HE GOT INTO MARVEL: Actually, I'm one of the few editorial people on staff who never did an internship here first! I started by doing letters pages for a couple of the editorial offices, and eventually was brought on staff!

WORST JOB EVER: I was once hired by a temp agency to do office work while in college, so I arrived at work dressed in a suit and tie, only to find myself dragging heavy office furniture from room to room for two days!

HE'S ATTEMPTED THE WEAKEST PICKUP LINE KNOWN TO MAN: "Virginia Beach... where is that, Florida?"

HE COOKS: Poorly, but I can make a mean barbecued chicken with spaghetti when I have to!

HE APPRECIATES AND ADMIRES THE TALENTS OF OTHERS: My main influences have been Stan Lee, George Lucas, Steven Spielberg, Howard Stern, Gene Roddenberry, Stephen King, Denny O'Neill, Mark Gruenwald, Roger Stern, Peter David, J.M. DeMatteis, Marv Wolfman, and Bram Stoker!

THE BEST MOVIE HE'S EVER SEEN: *The Empire Strikes Back*.

THE WORST MOVIE HE'S EVER SEEN: A three-way tie between *Crash*, *Highlander 2*, and *Halloween 6!*

HOW HE KILLS TV SHOWS: If I like a television show, it's probably going to get cancelled. The most recent example: *American Gothic*! Luckily, I still have *NYPD Blue*!

IF YOU CALLED HIS MOTHER, SHE'D PROBABLY TELL YOU GLENN IS: Hot-tempered, frequently nice and usually well-meaning!

HE'S TALENTED: My hobbies are playing guitar, reading, goofing off with Ralph Macchio and Mark Bernardo, and slowly but surely driving Tom Brevoort insane!



MARVEL ONLINE CHAT SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK:

7/10/97 - Writer KURT BUSIEK and Editor TOM BREVOORT

(THUNDERBOLTS)

9:30 PM - 10:30 PM EST

7/14/97 - KATHY PROBE (Overpower)

9 PM - 10 PM EST

Artist CHRIS BACHALO (GENERATION X)

10 PM - 11 PM EST

7/15/97 - Asst. Editor/Writer GLENN GREENBERG

(SPIDER-MAN CYBERCOMIC)

9 PM - 10 PM EST

Please note that this is a TENTATIVE schedule. Keep checking MARVEL ONLINE for up-to-the-minute information!

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Hi, Heroes! Welcome to the culture corner and to the most widely-read column of all (among the Lee family) as we breathlessly meet our lucky No-Prize Laureates!

The first one favored by fate is Russell Lasky of Fort Lee, N.J., who poses this emotion-tinged query:

"I'd like to get my own comics published. I'd also like to work for Marvel. Should I keep doing my own characters or work on established characters like Captain America and Thor?"

Well, Russ, before I can answer in my usual Solomonic manner, we'd haveta know how good you are. And this goes for all you misguided maniacs who wanna work in comics! Send samples of your work to Marvel's "Submissions Editor." His answer may change thy life forever!

From East Yorkshire, England, Kevin Barron daringly demands:

"Slip back into fan mode and tell us your three favorite Marvel stories of all time."

That's kinda tough, 'cause, as you've probably suspected, I'm my own biggest fan and love everything I write! However, I'll nominate the Fantastic Four's "This Man, This Monster!," the Silver Surfer's "Parable," and Spider-Man's "The Kid Who Collects Spider-Man." (It's heresy! I didn't even write that one! Rollickin' Roger Stern did!)

Our third No-Prizer, Robert Hobbs of Norwalk, IA, has been losing sleep wondering:

"Will your new line 'Excelsior Comics' ever see print?"

Alas, those new mags were due a year ago, but my workload on the movies suddenly doubled and I didn't have the time necessary to ensure that Excelsior would be as good as we wanted it to be. And you know Mighty Marvel would never give you less than the absolute best! But don't despair, True Believers — when you least expect it, there shall come —

Excelsior!

Stan
Stan Lee

You, too, can be a notorious No-Prize Laureate! Shoot your question — the briefer the better — to

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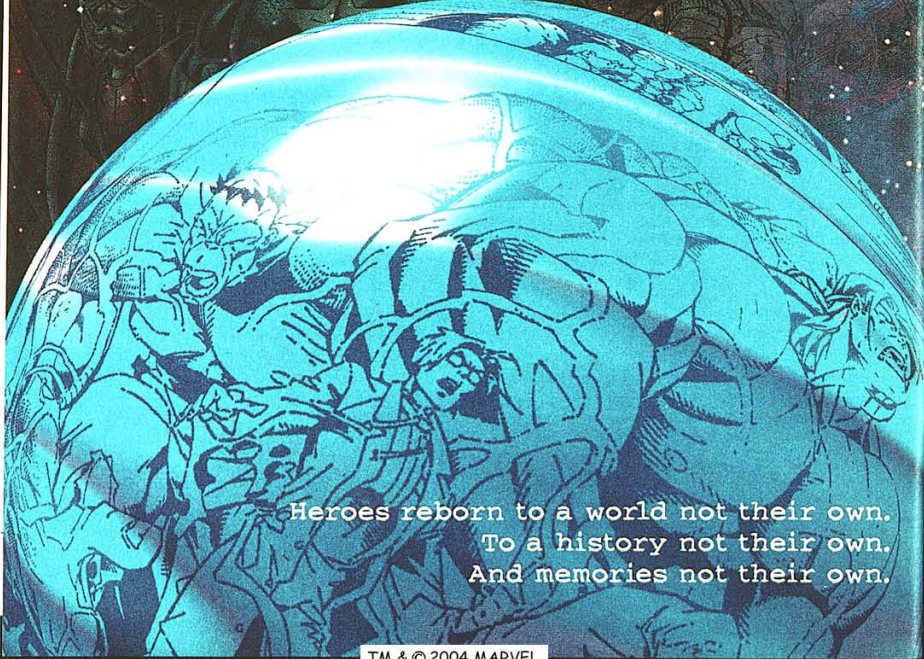
The rest is in the lap of the gods!

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"Mom. Dad. They told me I have
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IN OCTOBER

HEROES RETURN

A 4-issue weekly limited series by award-winning writer
Peter David and fan-favorite artist Salvador Larocca.

IN NOVEMBER

Fantastic Four #1 By Scott Lobdell & Alan Davis
Captain America #1 By Mark Waid & Ron Garney

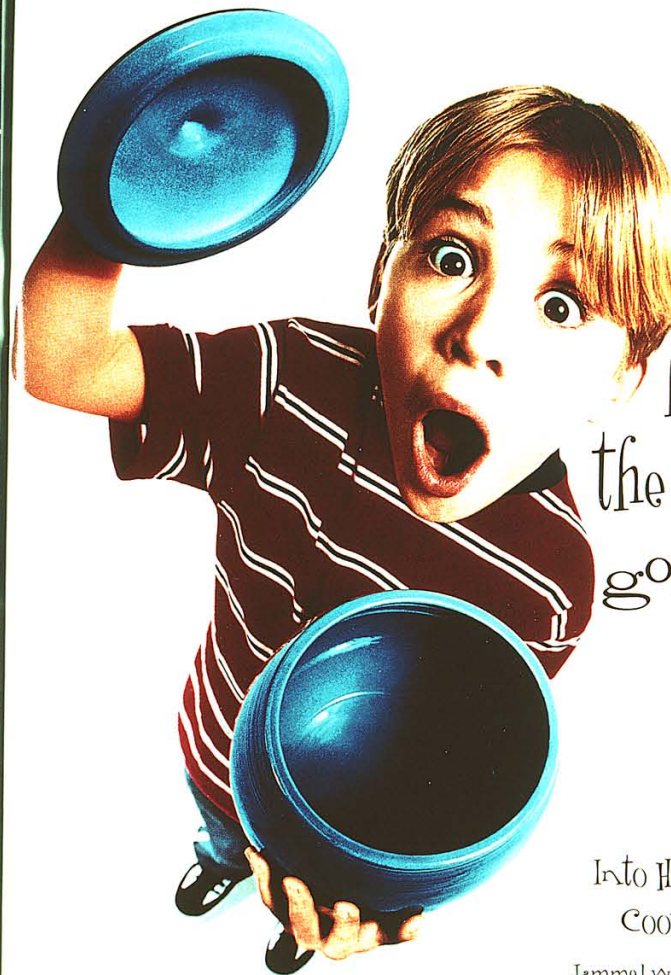
IN DECEMBER

Avengers #1 By Kurt Busiek & George Perez
Iron Man #1 By Kurt Busiek & Sean Chen

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